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CONSUMER REPORTS, JANUARY-NOVEMBER 1956

Each issue of CONSUMER REPORTS contains a cumulative index of principal subjects covered in all preceding 1956 issues. Page numbers run consecutively: January, 1-48; February, 49-96; March, 97-144; April, 145-208; May, 209-272; June, 273-320; July, 321-

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yet found improved samples of the *Tee-Vee* at press time.

Results of CU's tests

All switchers were tested for accuracy, convenience, and electrical shock hazard, and for operation under high temperature and high humidity conditions.

Since all have conventional electric-clock mechanisms, all kept time accurately. But most of them were hard to set precisely to the desired time, particularly at first. Precision of setting did improve with practice on most models, however.

The convenience of use varied widely among the different models. For detailed comments on convenience, see the ratings. In no model was there shock hazard. And all models (except the *Sessions*) proved adequately trouble-

free through the 200 time cycles of operation, even after being subjected for 48 hours to very high humidity.

Each model was also tested at the electrical capacity designated on its nameplate. In the course of this test the plugs of a few samples of models rated at 1500-watts or more became uncomfortably hot. This trouble was easily corrected by replacing the plug. The fault on clocks whose housings get hot at rated load would be harder to correct; they should be returned under the guarantee, for replacement or repair.

A switcher should not be used to control any appliance having a rating higher than the rating of the switcher; motors of greater than $\frac{1}{4}$ hp rating, such as air conditioners or large attic fans, require industrial-type, wired-in switchers.

RATINGS OF HOUSEHOLD ELECTRIC SWITCHERS

Listed in order of estimated overall quality in each group. Color-check (✓) models rated high in overall quality. Wattages given are manufacturers' ratings. All carry one-year guarantees against defective operation. At least two samples of each model were tested. For a-c only. Available at electric supply stores.

REPEAT-PERFORMANCE

✓ **INTERMATIC TIME-ALL A-211** (International Register Co., Chicago) \$11.95. 1650 watts. Gray plastic case. Can be wall-mounted. Dial marked in half-hour intervals. When device is started "on," the "off" time cannot be set for less than a half hour later; when started "off," the "on" time cannot be set for less than one hour later. Fairly convenient to set, but sharp metal points on pointers may be objectionable.

✓ **INTERMATIC TIME-ALL A-221** (International Register Co.) \$9.95. 875 watts. Except for smaller capacity rating and different finish on the dial, this model is essentially similar to the *Intermatic Time-All A-211* above.

WARDS Cat. No. 87C3841 (Montgomery Ward) \$7.95 plus shipping. 1100 watts. Brown painted metal case. Can be wall-mounted; on table, must be used upright. Dial marked in quarter-hour intervals. When device is started "on," the "off" time cannot be set for less than one hour later; when device is started "off," the "on" time cannot be set for less than $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours later. Convenient to set.

SEARS KENMORE Cat. No. 34G6448 (Sears-Roebuck) \$6.95 plus shipping. 1500 watts. Black or white plastic case. Can be wall-mounted. Dial is marked in one-hour intervals. When device is started "on," the "off" time cannot be set for less than two hours later; when device is started "off," the "on" time cannot be set for less than $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours later. Inconvenient to set; the "on" and

"off" pointers were found to be very stiff.

SYNCHRO-MATIC (Galter Products Co., Chicago) \$7.95. 1500 watts. Appears essentially the same as the *Sears Kenmore*, above, except for absence of cord. Plugs directly into wall outlet. Weight of attached cord and plug may pull switcher out of wall outlet unless switcher is screwed to outlet.

SINGLE-PERFORMANCE

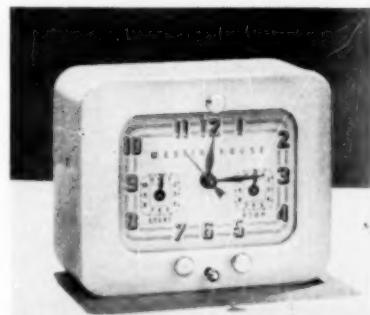
✓ **As clocks, these models carry a Federal excise tax of 10% (not included in prices given below).**

ACCEPTABLE

✓ **WESTINGHOUSE Cat. No. TC-81** (Westinghouse Electric Corp., Electric Appliance Div., Mansfield, Ohio) \$12.95. 1650 watts. White painted case. Sweep second hand. Convenient to set. Switching operations can be set between a quarter-hour and $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours in advance.

INTERMATIC A-401 (International Register Co.) \$11.95. 1650 watts. Green plastic case. Very inconvenient to set. Switching operations can be set between a quarter hour and $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours in advance. "On" time cannot exceed $5\frac{1}{2}$ hours without resetting.

SESSIONS TEE VEE Cat. No. CM85 (The Sessions Clock Co., Forestville, Conn.) \$24.95. 1100 watts. Light-colored wood case with brass-finish trim. Very convenient to set. Performs same operations as *Westinghouse Cat. No. TC-81* above, but switching operations can be set between a quarter hour and $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours in advance. Gear movement in models tested produced powdery substance that caused some jamming; manufacturer claims this condition has been corrected in current production.



Westinghouse single-performance switcher has a regular clock face



Intermatic Time-All A-211 repeat performance model has a 24-hour dial